

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/894,074

Applicant(s)

MILLER ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Hoang-Vu A. Nguyen-Ba

2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment After Final filed July 12, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-6,8-14,16-19,21-27,29-32 and 34-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/3/02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.



ANTONY NGUYEN-BA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Hoang-Vu Antony Nguyen-Ba
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2192

Examiner's Amendment

1. This examiner's amendment and statement of reasons for allowance are responsive to Amendment After Final filed on July 12, 2005.
2. Per Applicant's request, the references listed in the Remarks/Arguments section (page 12) of the Amendment After Final filed on July 12, 2005 have been considered and listed in the PTO-892 form attached with this communication.
3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Dutta on August 3, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a. **Abstract:** (see Amendments to the Specification, filed July 12, 2005): delete from line 3 to line 10 "During workflow execution... database to implement the workflow model defined in the WDL file in the database."
- b. **Title:** amend the Title as follows: METHOD, SYSTEM, AND PROGRAM FOR GENERATING A WORKFLOW AND USING LOCKING WHEN EXECUTING THE WORKFLOW
- c. **Claim 14** (see Listing of Claims, filed July 12, 2005):
 - i. in line 4, insert – storage – before "medium";
 - ii. in line 15, insert – storage – before "medium".
- d. **Claim 27** (see Listing of Claims, filed July 12, 2005): in line 1, insert – storage – before "medium"
- e. **Claims 29 to 39:** in line 1, replace "article of manufacture" with – computer readable storage medium –

Note that amended Claims 14, 27 and 29-39 recite the limitation “a computer readable storage medium.” This limitation is supported in Applicant’s disclosure in paragraph [0037], lines 4-8, e.g., magnetic storage medium, optical storage, volatile and non-volatile devices.

Examiner’s Statement of Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-14, 16-19, 21-27, 29-32 and 34-39 are allowed.
5. Following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art of record, i.e., U.S. Patent No. 5,930,512 to Boden et al. (“Boden”) teaches method and apparatus for building and running workflow process models using a **hypertext markup language**.

The prior art made of record, i.e., U.S. Patent No. 6,226,641 to Hickson et al. (“Hickson”) teaches access control using **locks** for groups of related data items in MQSeries family of messaging and queuing computer program products (1:58 - 2:26).

The prior art made of record, i.e., U.S. Patent No. 6,606,740 to Lynn et al. (“Lynn”) teaches a workflow processing framework that can be used to develop a workflow system by entering data into the database to define work types and work steps for workflow processing and by creating a **graphical user interface (GUI)** to use the set of objects and defining the workflow in the workflow engine (3:18-24).

The prior art made of record, i.e., U.S. Patent No. 6,721,713 to Guheen et al. (“Guheen”) teaches a business alliance identification in a Web architecture framework comprising workflow, GUI and locking-unlocking features.

However, the above prior art of record, when taken individually or in combination, fails to teach or suggest method, system and program for

generating a workflow and using locking when executing the workflow as required by amended Claims 1, 14 and 27. At least, Boden and Lynn do not teach using locking in workflow; Hickson does not teach workflow; and Guheen does not teach transforming a workflow model into a workflow definition language (WDL) file.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Hoang-Vu A. Nguyen-Ba whose telephone number is (571) 272-3701. The Examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday, 7:15 – 17:45.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Tuan Dam can be reached at (571) 272-3695.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hoang Anthony Nguyen Ba". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ANTONY NGUYEN-BA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit 2192

August 4, 2005